



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Group Art Unit 3713

In re

Patent Application of

Craig S. Moreo

Application No. 10/687,444

Confirmation No. 8759

Filed: October 16, 2003

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

“SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR TRAINING”

I, Teresa M. Thelen, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the US Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date of my signature.

Teresa M. Thelen

Signature

8-23-04

Date of Signature

DECLARATION OF CRAIG S. MOREO
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.97 & §1.98

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Craig S. Moreo, declare as follows:

1. I currently reside at 266 Allview Road, Westerville, Ohio 43081.
2. I am the sole inventor of the subject matter of all the claims for the above-identified patent application.
3. I am aware of a prior art training facility (“the London Facility”) constructed and publicly disclosed at least as early as October 15, 2002.
4. The London Facility exists at 1650 STATE ROUTE 56, London, OH 43140 and was finalized and opened for operation in 2001 with funding from the

Office of the Attorney General of the State of Ohio to be used in training police, fire, and other emergency personnel.

5. I was employed by the State of Ohio as the project architect on behalf of the State for the construction of the London Facility.

6. Because it is difficult to disclose the London Facility in the form of an Information Disclosure Statement pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97 due to the lack of pictures, drawings, or other literature, I am submitting this Declaration to disclose the London Facility as prior art to my claimed invention.

7. The London Facility includes a plurality of downwardly-opening channels arranged in an overhead grid that is mounted to the roof trusses.

8. The London Facility also includes a plurality of lift-and-place panels that define walls in the facility to establish a desired floor plan of hallways and rooms. The panels are constructed of 1 ¼ inch thick plywood covered with a high density laminate, and have rubber strips along their bottom edges. The vertical side edges of the panels are chamfered to fit snugly with the edge of the adjacent panels.

9. The channels are fixed within the facility, but the panels may be picked up and carried around by people within the facility while setting up the floor plan.

10. To install a panel in a selected location in the London Facility, a person must insert the top edge of the panel into the channel in the overhead grid at the desired location, and bring the panel into a generally vertical orientation to wedge the panel between the channel and the floor. The frictional interference between the rubber strips and the floor of the building resists unintentional movement of the panel out of the desired position.

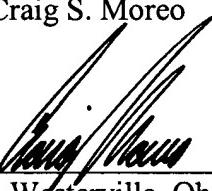
11. The London Facility is equipped with catwalks, also supported by the roof trusses, that permit an observer to watch from above any training exercises in the halls and rooms defined by the panels. The catwalks are above the grid of channels so that an observer on the catwalks is above the tops of the walls defined by the panels.

12. The London Facility includes a mezzanine level that is used for storage and additional training space. The space underneath the mezzanine is used as a classroom. The mezzanine floor is solid and cannot be seen through.

13. The London Facility is not integrally wired for electronic surveillance in the form of closed-circuit video cameras. Rather, the primary means for observing training activities in the facility is with a live observer on the mezzanine or catwalks. While it is possible that some of the instructors brought hand-held video recording devices into the facility to record training exercises, no video surveillance or recording means have been hard wired into the facility to my knowledge up to the date of this declaration.

14. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole inventor: Craig S. Moreo

Inventor's signature:  Date: AUG. 11, 2004
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Citizenship: United States
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